

# Farms, Fish and Flood Initiative 3FI



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## *3FI Mission:*

*To create and advance mutually beneficial strategies that support the long-term viability of agriculture and salmon while reducing the risks of destructive floods.*

# Farms Fish and Flood Initiative: Partner Organizations

- National Oceanic Atmospheric Administration (NOAA)
- Skagit Conservation District
- Skagit County
- Skagit County Dike and Drainage Partnership
- Skagitonians to Preserve Farmland
- The Nature Conservancy
- Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife
- Western Washington Agricultural Association

*Memorandum of Understanding Signed by all 3FI Partners in 2013*

## Funding

EPA funding from National Estuary Program (NEP) – grant managed by  
Washington Department of Ecology

# Farms Fish and Flood Initiative: Goals

- *Restore estuary habitat and functions in the tidal Skagit Delta needed to meet the Skagit Chinook Recovery Plan goal (approximately 2,700 acres and/or 1.35 million smolts) consistent with the 3FI mission.*
- *Reduce the risk of destructive flooding in the Skagit Delta by implementing flood risk reduction alternatives consistent with the 3FI mission.*
- *Protect and improve the agricultural land base and infrastructure consistent with the 3FI mission (secure 20,000 acres of agricultural easements and implement the Tidegate Fish and Drainage Fish Initiatives)*



Photo by Keith Lazelle



Photo by Polly Hicks



# The Multiple Benefit Approach

## *The Fisher Slough Project in Skagit County*

- *Completed in 2012*
- *Providing benefits for fish, farms and flood storage*

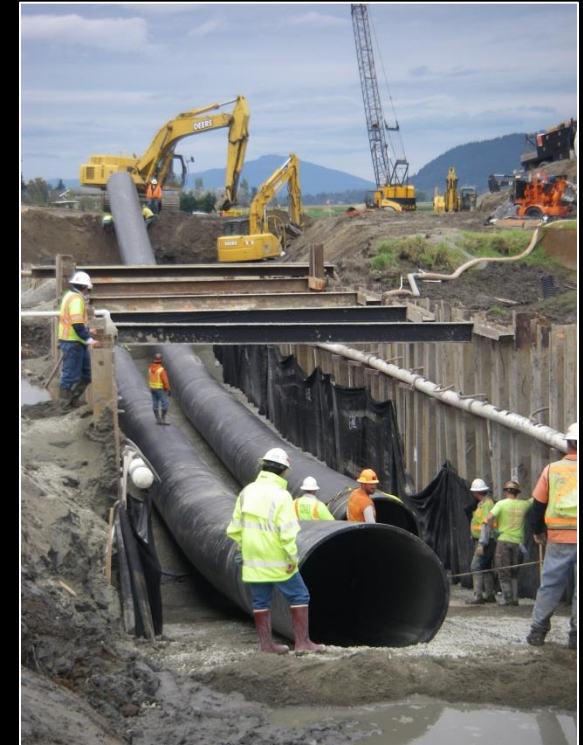
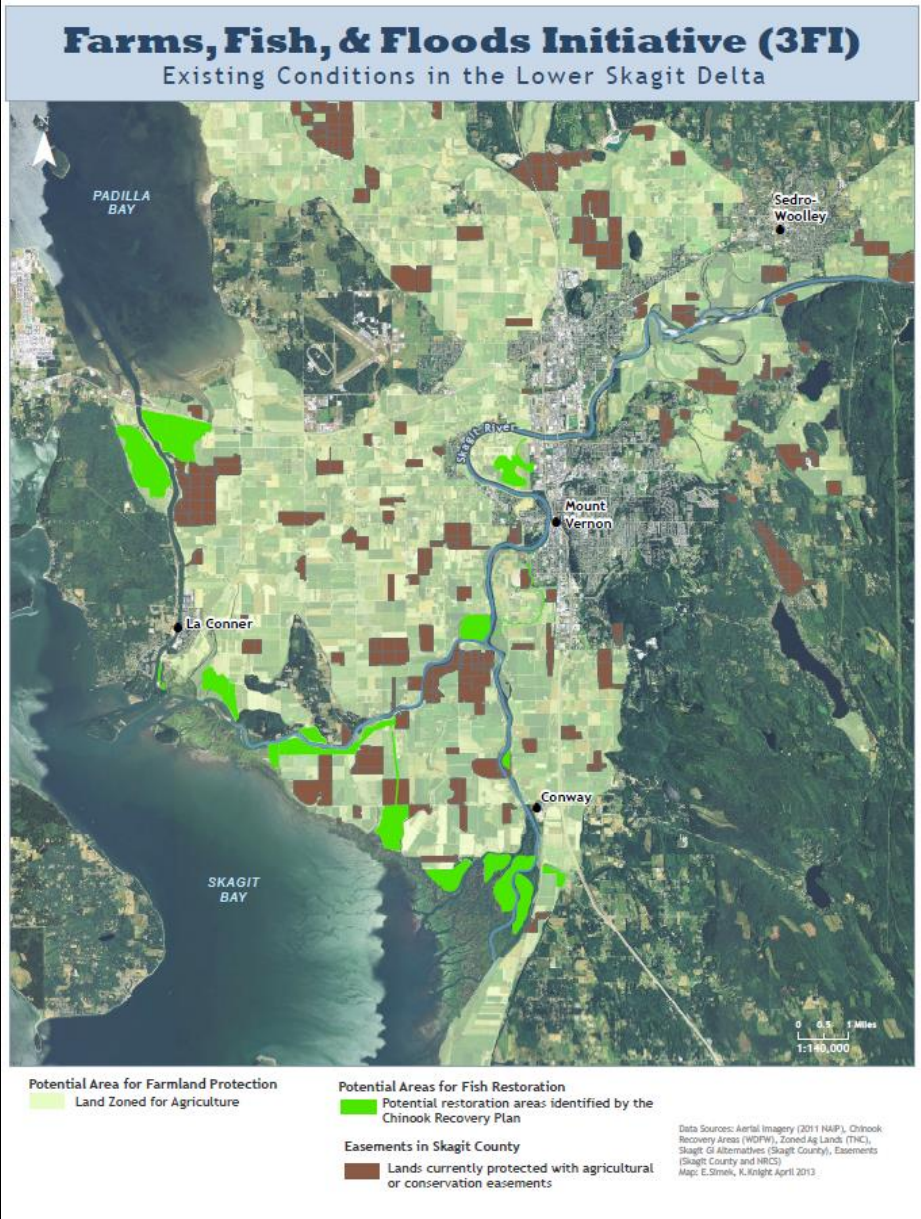


Photo by Jenny Baker

# Existing Conditions

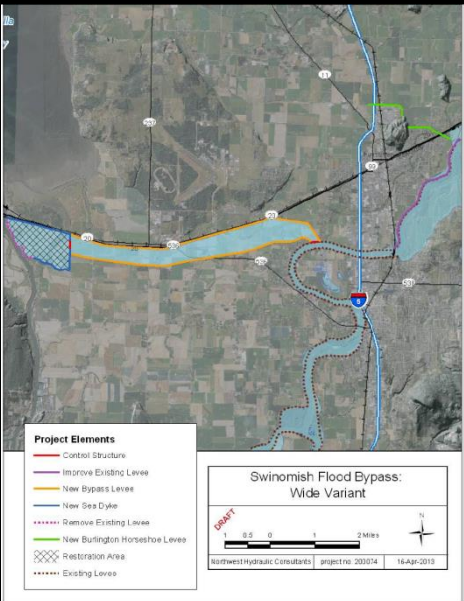
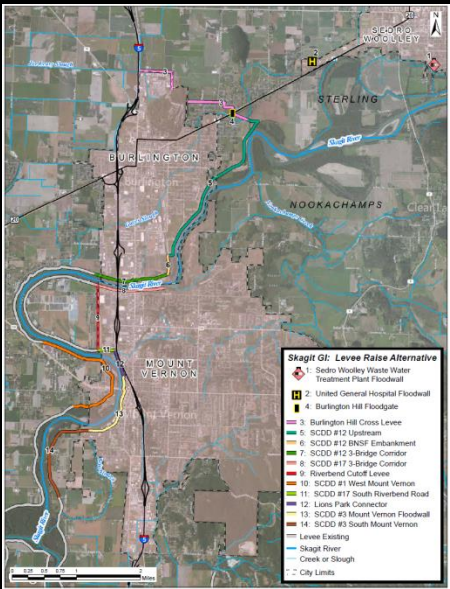
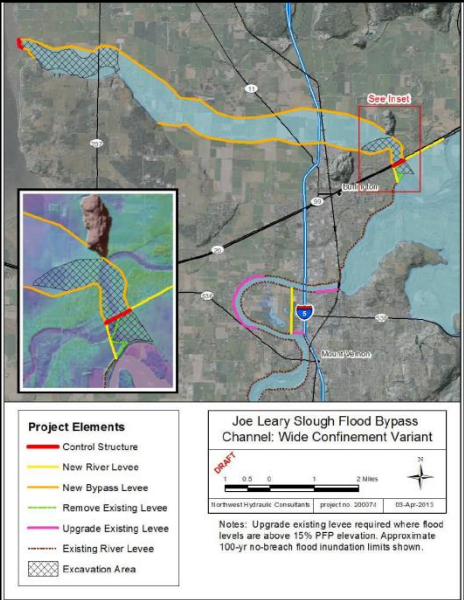




# Skagit General Investigation

## Skagit General Investigation – Flood Protection Alternatives

- 1) Swinomish Bypass
- 2) Joe Leary Bypass
- 3) Comprehensive Urban Levee Improvement
- 4) No Action
- 5) Each Alternative Incorporates dam storage



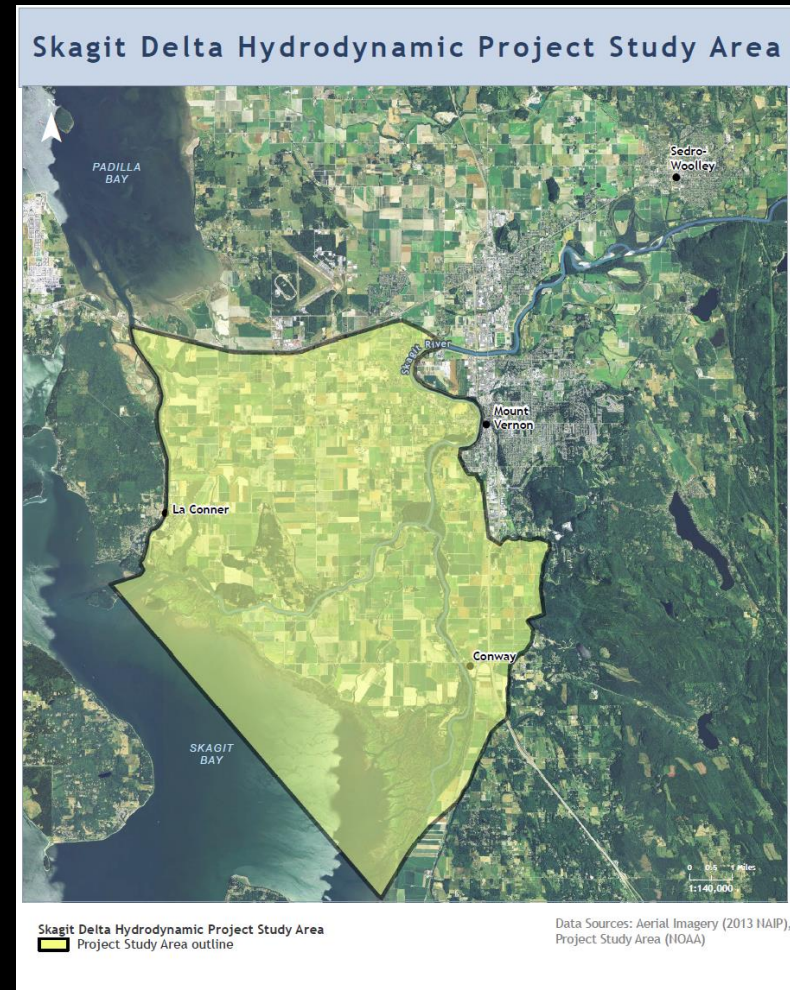
# Farms Fish and Flood Initiative: What We're Doing Now

## Three Project Teams Laying the Groundwork

- Skagit Delta Hydro Modeling Team
  - The Skagit Hydro Model team is working to develop a scope of work to model and rank projects in the Skagit Delta that will benefit fish, reduce destructive flooding and minimize impacts to agriculture.



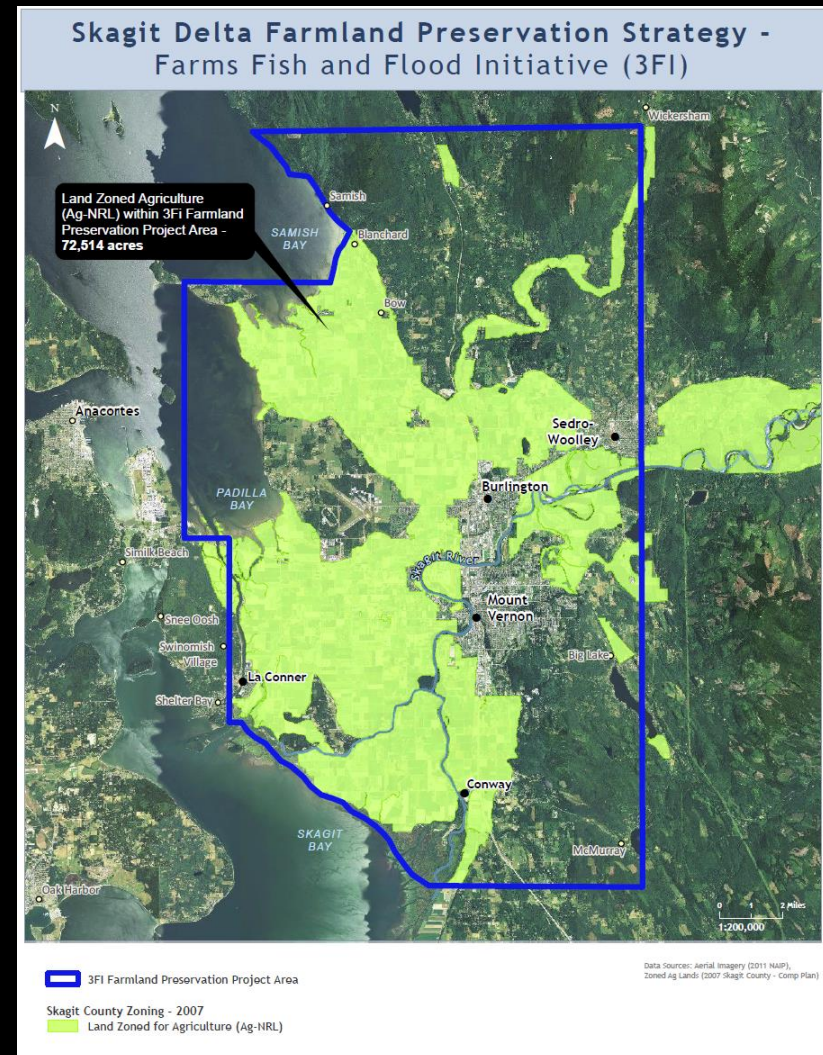
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# Farms Fish and Flood Initiative: What We're Doing Now

- Skagit Farmland Preservation Team
  - Strategy for how we protect 20,000 acres of farmland in the Skagit Delta
- Skagit Agricultural Cluster Analysis
  - Understanding the Skagit agricultural industry so it remains viable





# Farms Fish and Flood Initiative: What We're Doing Now

Next steps: project teams complete work in 2014

- Work to fund and implement these strategies going forward through a 3FI Coordinated Investment Strategy

